

HELLO AGAIN

VOL. 21 NO. 1

JAN - FEB 1990

A PERSONAL NOTE: I hope all of you had a happy holiday season.

I recently revised my **Jack Benny** log. It contains much more information than the previous one which had several supplements. **Cost is \$10.**

Many people request information from collectors. **Please** send a SASE (Self-addressed Stamped Envelope). This should ensure an answer. Also when you are sent a SASE, please have the courtesy to respond.

Enclosed is the list of OTR clubs and publications that I send to new subscribers. Please let me know of any corrections or additions. Also, if you haven't joined some of them, why don't you?

CONVENTION 1989: I forgot to mention in the convention highlights that we made 2 donations. One was given to the Society of Singers, an organization which helps less fortunate singers. Margaret Whiting accepted the award. The other was given to the Stephanie Joyce Kahn Foundation, an organization which among other things makes radio tapes available to low income and elderly people. Ruth Schwartz accepted the award for Stephanie Joyce Kahn who was too ill to attend.

CONVENTION 1990: Dates of our next convention are October 18 - 20, 1990.

REMINISCING: From **January, 1971; Vol. 2 No. 1:** I now have 57 subscribers. Ron Lackmann recently wrote Remember Radio. It was one of the first books on the golden age of radio. It contained many photos...Goodman Ace recently wrote a book called Ladies and Gentleman - Easy Aces...Radio station KXL in Portland, Oregon was fined \$1000 by the FCC for carrying a program called Old-time Radio without logging it as a commercial matter. 6 of the 15 minutes of the program was well-defined advertising...**High Cost of Trading Dept.:** Dave Swift was charged a 1945 Shadow comic and a Buck Rogers BLB for a 15-minute tape. Dick Hayes was once offered a 1 hour Kate Smith show for \$75. (Can you top this?)...**New Friends:** Jim Bannister; Mike Polacek; John Dunning (John has about 1000 shows); Charles Hoefler; Rolly Roos; Al Vesik; Stuart Weiss (Stu still subscribes); Bob Ellsworth (Bob still subscribes); Roger Kelting; Fred Kuhn; Ralph Miller; **Old Friends:** Dick Hayes has a tape made in 1949 that is still in excellent condition (22 years; what is the oldest tape you have?);

This is the Life - Final Part: Jack Benny first appeared on radio on Ed Sullivan's program in February, 1932. At the time he was starring in Earl Carroll "Vanities." Today his most treasured keepsake is this first radio script which began: "Ladies and Gentlemen, this is Jack Benny talking. There will be a slight pause while you say, 'Who Cares?'" In April he started his own series of programs. The almost incredible way he shot to the top after that will always be regarded as a radio phenomenon. Still more phenomenal to the wise men of Radio Row is the tenacity with which he has clung to the top of the rung of the ladder ever since. Because at first he only had a small audience behind a big glass sheet and couldn't hear them laugh, he had the glass pane removed

Why is Jack Benny a success? First he discovered long ago that we would rather make fun of him than hear him make fun of others. Second Jack keeps his programs light and limber by rehearsing the script only once. Unexpected lines are constantly added. Bill Morrow and Eddie Beloin were his writers during his early years that were responsible for turning out these scripts. If the scripts make Jack laugh, they probably will be successful. Jack is the best listener to jokes. George Burns makes Jack laugh at the least little thing. At heart Jack Benny is very shy, often avoiding welcoming crowds and speaking engagements. Bertha Brainerd of NBC called Jack "A

simple, completely unspoiled, rather naive person. To me the most surprising thing about him is how sensitive he is."

Radio Guide, July 10, 1937;
written by Jack Jamison;
courtesy of Raleigh Barker

COLLECTORS AND INFORMATION OF THE PAST - UPDATES: **Rolly Roos** gave most of his collection to DePauw University a number of years ago...**John Dunning** has attempted to reprint "Tune in Yesterday," but so far there has been no success. Publishers are afraid to tackle something that big. John is back doing OTR on radio; Sundays, 1-4 pm on KBXG in Denver...**Ralph Miller** has not been collecting for some years. He does still collect stamps of Brazil.

RADIO IS ALIVE AND WELL: **Charles Michelson** will start distributing the Milton Berle show of 1947 - 48 during the first quarter of 1990...Company One, a small Equity Theater company in Hartford, CT performed RadioPlaying on Dec. 16. The 2-hour show was written and directed by David Ossman, founder of Firesign Theater and producer of NPR's "Spider Web," a long-running drama series produced by WGNH-FM in Boston. The radio play performed by Company One concerns the further adventures of George Tirebiter, the popular spy Ossman created for Firesign Theater. A second radio play will be performed in March...The **Lone Ranger** may again appear in the fall of 1990. Palladium Entertainment is pitching tv stations a new version of the show. Palladium successfully launched, in association with MCA TV last year, a new version of Lassie which has solid ratings on 149 stations...The **Museum of Broadcasting** in New York is holding children's workshops every Saturday morning until March 31. During each workshop the children, aged 8 - 14, perform from a script complete with sound effects. Some shows they have been re-creating are Let's Pretend, Inner Sanctum and Dick Tracy.

The **Veteran's Bedside Network**, the organization founded by Jean Tighe in 1948 which visits many Veteran's hospitals around the country, is in need of your help. Many volunteers visit the hospitals and cast the patients in various roles, rehearse them, and put on a radio play complete with music and sound effects. Many performers of the 40's and 50's are among the volunteers. But the number of patients have fallen off and it needs more volunteers and finances. If you or your club can help, write VBN, Dept. P, 250 West 54th St, 9th Floor, New York, NY 10019.

Marjorie Van Halteren is the producer of Radio Stage, a program of original radio dramas, which airs on WNYC in New York on Sundays at 8 pm...Who has the largest collection of antique radios? Perhaps it is **Dr. Ralph Muchow**, a dentist from Elgin, Illinois. He has about 3000 "working" antique radios including a Clark wireless built around 1900 and the only one of its kind...Connecticut again has a station broadcasting OTR. It is WPOP - AM (1410). The show is on Saturday nights from 8 - 10 pm and is the syndicated show called "When Radio Was" hosted by Art Fleming of Jeopardy and is distributed by the same company that distributes Himan Brown's Mystery Theater...**Gary Yoggy** recently directed 4 radio plays for the Elmira (NY) Little Theater on January 13th. This is the second year they have successfully done this. One of the plays was Sorry Wrong Number.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED: **Nostalgia Digest**; Dec-Jan; 15th anniversary issue; articles on Radio and the War; Gracie Allen...**Through the Horn** (NARA publication), Winter; several articles including Fibber McGee and Molly - 1936...**Milwaukee Area Newsletter**; Dec; articles about Mel Blanc and Superman...**Old Time Radio Digest**; Nov-Dec; continuing article about radio in the 1920's (1922 - 24)...**Metro Washington OTR Club Newsletter**; Jan-Feb; articles on Clara, Lu and Em; Bing Crosby; OTR on stage...**On the Air**, Jan - Feb; articles about the Veteran's Bedside Network, the 50th anniversary of Captain Midnight

and the 50th anniversary of The Metropolitan Opera.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES: Three more books from Scarecrow Press, Box 4167, Metuchen, NJ 08840; **The Children's Hour** by Marilyn Boemer (\$20). Boemer describes 47 children's programs - mostly the "thriller" dramas, the accompanying parental protests and the possible effects of listening to such shows...**The Glenn Miller Army Air Force Band: I Sustain the Wings** by Edward Polic (\$127.50). As you can gather by the cost, this is a very detailed and scholarly book. Polic covers the significant period of Glenn Miller's life and music from his enlistment in 1942 to late 1945 (Miller died in a military plane crash in 1944). There are several sections including a history of the band during this period; a discography; many scripts of the various radio shows. It is well worth the cost for the Glenn Miller fan...**Pharmacy and Medicine on the Air** by Mickey Smith (\$22.50). Mickey is a Professor of Health Care Administration at the University of Mississippi and has been a longtime subscriber of HA. The book covers radio from 1935 - 1960 and provides a detailed examination of the shows in which pharmacy and pharmacists were featured. Some of the shows covered are The great Gildersleeve, Fibber McGee & Molly and Family Doctor. Also covered are all shows sponsored by drug companies and shows which featured doctors and nurses. This 175-page book is well recommended.

Owens Pomeroy has a second book out called **Sounds of Yesterday**, a follow-up to his first book, **The Other side of the Microphone**. It is a personal journal of memories and an early history of radio including the popularity of short-wave radio, the big band era, the war years and much else. Part of the proceeds from the sale will help support the Old-time Radio Museum Exhibit and Hall of Fame in Baltimore, MD. The book is \$7.95 plus \$2.00 for postage. Write Owens at 3613 Chestnut Ave., Baltimore, MD 21211.

LOGS: Ray Stanich, 173 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201 has 3 more logs; **Kenny Baker Program (SASE)**, **The Family Hour of Stars** (60 cents) and **The Family Hour** (completely revised - \$3.00)

ORGANIZATIONS AND CONVENTIONS: The Friends of Kate Smith have formed **The Kate Smith/God Bless America Foundation**. One of its aims is to acquire Kate Smith's summer home, complete with Trophy Room and tiny Broadcast Studio and make it the Kate Smith Museum. It is located on an island in Lake Placid. The Foundation plans a major convention next June 8 - 10 at Lake Placid. For details write the Foundation, 122 Main St., Lake Placid, NY 12946. Rev. Ray Woods and Dick Hayes, 2 longtime friends of mine and the Friends of Old-time Radio, are driving forces. For a minimum \$10 donation, you can receive their full color brochure and quarterly newsletters for a year.

The next convention in Cincinnati is April 20 - 21 at the Marriott Inn in Cincinnati. For more information contact **Bob Burchett** (513) 772-1720. Special guests this time are Parley Baer and Bob Hastings.

ORCA (The Old-time Radio show Collectors' Association of England) has been existence for some time under the direction of Barry Hill who has been at our convention the last two years. Tom Monroe, 2055 Elmwood Ave., Lakewood, OH 44107 is directing the North American Branch. Over 200 cassettes of BBC shows are available on a lending library basis. Dues are \$15 a year. Make the check out to Tom Monroe (to simplify matters) to above address. If you are interested in OTR in England or just OTR, this is a good organization to join.

CATALOGS AND NEW SHOWS: Dave Siegel, Box 610, Croton-On-Hudson, NY 10520 has 2 new Shadow: "The Hoodoo Ship" 10/19/41; "The Altar of Death" 3/15/42 which he will trade for shows he doesn't have...**Gil Mack** donated several shows to the Friends of Old-time Radio including My Son and I (9/19/40); Yiddish Swing with The Barry Sisters (1946 - 47); I Give You My Life with Molly Picon (4/18/39). The last 2 were on local New York Radio. Gil ap-

peared in all the shows...**Larry Kiner**, Box 82, Redmond, WA 98073 sent his newest catalog. It is supplement 28 and among other good shows he has 32 episodes of the Rudy Vallee Drene Show (1944 - 45); about 150 new episodes of Hop Harrigan; The New Roy Rogers Show (1954). Larry has close to 7100 reels of shows.

THE TAPE DECK: If you have reel tapes that are causing you problems because of squeal or they are dried out, there might be a solution. Esoteric Sound, 4813 Wallbank Ave., Downers Grove, ILL 60515 is selling 2 products to help from a company called Last Factory. Also selling these products is Larry Kiner (mentioned above). For details send either one a SASE.

NEW ADDRESSES: **Frank Tomaselli**, Box 112, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301.

NEW FRIENDS AND RETURNEES: **Joe Garza**, 1843 North Cherokee #106, Los Angeles, CA 90028...**Richard Silver**, 12 Tremont St., Salem, MA 01970...**Suzanne Siegel**, 405 East 63 St., New York, NY 10021...**Bob Ellsworth**, 3 Violette Pl., Woodstock, NY 12498...**Robert Nealous**, 41 Hibernia Rd., Rockaway, NJ 07866...**John Woodruff**, 145 Park Ave., Randolph, NJ 07869...**Anna Passadino**, 102 South Lake Ave., Albany, NY 12208... **Don Stribling**, Box D Loras College, 1450 Alta Vista, Dubuque, IA 52001...**Sandra Weber**, 116B South Pine, Olathe, KS 66061...**Robert Leary**, 1205 Brunhild, Victoria, TX 77901...**Dom Patrissi**, 93 Augusta Dr., Newington, CT 06111...**R.L. Sherer**, 4105 NW 62 St, Oklahoma City, OK 73112 is part of a buyers group drawing from a 40,000+ show library. If you would like their current list and policy of purchasing, please send \$3...**Jeff Elliott**, 6945 Hutchins Ave., Sebastopol, CA 95472.

OLD FRIENDS: **Ray Nemec**, 1424 Heatherton Dr., Naperville, IL 60563 has 26 quarter hour shows of Cowboy Slim Rinehart that were heard on XEG, Monterrey, Mexico. He is interested in knowing if anyone has programs from the old Border Radio days of the 1930's and 40's. Will trade or sell copies...**Walt Gollender**, Box 519, Irvington, NJ 07111 is the official world archiver and historian for the Four Aces, 1951 - 58. Walt maintains the largest collection of Four Aces material including hundreds of photos, all records and LP's and 40 % of all the film clips they did on network shows. Walt is looking for any material and will buy or trade...**Lee Munsick**, 20 Harriet Dr., Whippany, NJ 17981 is researching for a book on Arthur Godfrey and is seeking any information including associates, photos, articles, etc...**Rebecca Parent** sent me a nice letter. Cortlandt still remains in the nursing home since his stroke 3 years ago. He does recognize names and associates even though he can't write. If you would like to write, his address is Wistledge, 2100 E Main St., Peekskill, NY 10566. Cort's main interests are Fred Allen, Baby Snooks, Life with Luigi and Ziegfeld Follies, having the largest collection of these shows at the time...**Dick Hayes**, 50 Myrtle Ave., Cranston, RI 02901 is looking to buy two radio microphones, preferable CBS, from the thirties or forties; a table mike and a floor mike...We lost a good friend when **Stan Cawelti** passed away on December 28th. He was very active in ORCATS, NARA, and the Metro Washington OTR club. Stan attended our convention for 6 years. Expressions of sympathy can reach Stan's widow, Shirley, at 11621 Chapel Rd, Clifton, VA 22024...**Jim Harvey**, Box 3524, Grand Junction, CO 81502 wants the complete Towers version of Horatio Hornblower with Michael Redgrave. To my knowledge, there are at least 43 shows available.

IN FOND MEMORY: **Jean Holloway**, Nov 11, 72; radio and television scriptwriter (Kate Smith Show, Mayor of the Town, Hallmark Playhouse)...**Stuart Novins**, Dec 7, 75; former CBS news correspondent; moderated Face the Nation from 1953 - 60...**Arnold Moss**, Dec 15, 80; classical actor who performed on stage, film and radio. His radio performances were extensive including Against the Storm, Grand Central Station and Columbia Presents Corwin.

Arnold attended our convention for 6 years and those who attended this last convention heard his final performance in **The March of Time**. WBAI in New York gave Arnold a well deserved tribute on Max Schmid's Golden Age of Radio Show on Sunday, Jan 7...**Betty Garde**, 89, Dec 25; radio and stage actress (Police Woman, McGarry and His Mouse, Lorenzo Jones)...**David Victor**, Oct 18, 79; tv producer and writer for radio (A Date With Judy, Junior Miss)...**Homer Canfield**, Dec 25, 83; former NBC-Radio executive; helped develop Dragnet as a radio series...**Bernard Smith**, Jan 9, 75; was codirector and head writer of You Bet Your Life...**Barbara Stanwyck**, Jan 20, 82; dominating stage, screen and television actress for 60 years. Was guest on many radio shows and starred on one Suspense and 23 Lux Radio Theater...**Jeff Alexander**, Dec. 23, 79; music composer for radio, television and film (Amos 'n' Andy, Hollywood Star Playhouse)

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JAY HICKERSON, Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514 (203) 248-2887 \$10 a year

WONDERFUL DISCOVERY!!!

From the estate of a Los Angeles radio personality comes a stack of 12" acetate transcription discs. These recordings appear to be mostly off the air takes of radio material from the 1930s & 1940s made by various professional recording studios in the Los Angeles area.

The records are currently being checked and listed for mail auction. To receive your copy of this free list, send two stamps to the address below. Nothing will be picked out, the collection will be sold as received. Who knows what treasures lie here, awaiting discovery?

TOM HAWTHORN
Phonographs - Records
2143-A Second Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95818

'LONE RANGER' RIDES AGAIN

New York Palladium Entertainment is pitching tv stations a new version of "The Lone Ranger" for a proposed fall 1990 start date in syndication.

If the new "Lone Ranger" goes to series as a once-a-week half-hour, the executive producers will be Michael Uslan and Ben Melniker, who served as exec producers of the blockbuster theatrical movie "Batman." Uslan and Melniker will not produce a pilot for "Lone Ranger," so the casting hasn't yet begun.

Brian Firestone, executive v.p. of Palladium, says a pilot isn't needed because the Lone Ranger "is a presold, prepromoted character. It's not like we're coming to market with a new, untried sitcom." Firestone compares the marketing plan for a Lone Ranger series with the one Palladium successfully launched, in association with MCA TV, last year at this time for the new version of "Lassie," now scoring solid ratings on 149 stations, covering 91% of the U.S.

These stations bought "Lassie" without a pilot, succumbing instead to a presentation tape extolling the 17-year track record of the series on the CBS network (1954-71). "The Lone Ranger" started in radio in 1933 and was a success on ABC's primetime schedule from 1949-57.

"Superheroes are back in vogue, with Batman in the movies and Superboy on tv," says Firestone. He also points out that the huge ratings scored by the miniseries "Lonesome Dove" and the regular primetime scheduling of "Paradise" on CBS and "Young Riders" on ABC have given a new lease on life to the Western genre. (Universal's "Back To The Future III" will also be set in the West of gunslingers and dusty saloons.)

And to steer clear of pickets from Indian-rights groups, Firestone says the Lone Ranger's sidekick Tonto "will be a real partner. We look on him as a wise, well-traveled mystic, a sage, someone along the lines of a Pat Morita from 'The Karate Kid' movies."

PUBLICATIONS and ORGANIZATIONS

OLD-TIME RADIO PROGRAMS

HELLO AGAIN (Jay Hickerson), Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514; bimonthly; \$10 a year
THE LISTENING GUIDE NEWSLETTER (Bob Burnham), Box 2645, Livonia, MI 48151; quarterly; \$12 a year
NARA NEWS (Jackie Thompson), Box 118781, Cincinnati, OH 45211; quarterly; \$15 a year
NOSTALGIA DIGEST (Chuck Schaden), Box 421, Morton Grove, IL 60053; bimonthly; \$12 a year
OLD-TIME RADIO DIGEST (Bob Burchett and George Wagner), 4114 Montgomery Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45212; bimonthly; \$12.50 a year

OLD RADIOS AND PHONOGRAPHS

ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB OF AMERICA, 31 Steeplechase Rd, Devon, PA 19333; \$12 a year
HORN SPEAKER (Jim Cranshaw), 9820 Silver Meadow Rd, Dallas, TX 75217; 10 times a year; \$10 a year
MID-ATLANTIC ANTIQUE RADIO CLUB (Joe Koester), 249 Spring Gap South, Laurel, MD 20810; \$10 a year
OLD TIMERS BULLETIN (Bruce Kelley), Main St, Holcomb, NY 14469; quarterly; \$5 a year; journal of the Antique Wireless Association
REPRODUCER (John Ganster), Box 33545, Irving, TX 75062; journal for Southwest Vintage Radio and Phonograph Society.

NOSTALGIA - MISCELLANEOUS

COLLECTRIX, 389 New York Ave, Huntington, NY 11743; 3 times a year; \$7.50 a year.
Lists books and magazines on antiques and collectibles.
MOVIE - ENTERTAINMENT BOOK CLUB, 15 Oakland Ave, Harrison, NY 10528; monthly offering of books on all areas of entertainment and nostalgia.

CLUBS (Many have newsletters indicated in ().

CINCINNATI OTR CLUB (George Wagner), 2411 Ohio Ave #2, Cincinnati, OH 45219
GOLDEN RADIO BUFFS (Owens Pomeroy), 3613 Chestnut Dr, Baltimore, MD 21211; \$20 a year (On the Air)
HOUSTON OTR CLUB (Raleigh Barker), Stonesedge, Montgomery, TX 77356
INDIANA RECORDING CLUB (William Davis), 1729 E 77th, Indianapolis, IN 46240 (Tape Squeal)
JACK BENNY FAN CLUB (Laura Lee), 15430 Lost Valley Dr, Ft. Wayne, IN 46825
LUM AND ABNER FAN CLUB (Tim Hollis), Rt 3, Box 110 Dora, AL 35062
METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON OTR CLUB (James Burnette), 6704 Bodensee Ln, Manassas, VA 22111; \$15 a year
MILWAUKEE AREA RADIO ENTHUSIASTS (Ken Pabst), 4441 N 77th St, Milwaukee, WI 53218
NORTH AMERICAN RADIO ARCHIVES (NARA)...See NARA News
OLD-TIME RADIO CLUB OF BUFFALO, 100 Harvey Dr, Lancaster, NY 14086; \$17.50 a year (Illustrated Press)
OLD-TIME RADIO SHOW COLLECTORS' ASSOCIATION OF ENGLAND (ORCA) (Barry Hill) write to Tom Monroe, 2055 Elmwood Ave, Lakewood, OH 44107; \$15 a year
OLD-TIME RADIO SHOW COLLECTORS' ASSOCIATION (ORCA - Canadian counterpart) (Reg Hubert), 45 Barry St, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada P3B 3H6; \$6 a year
RADIO COLLECTORS OF AMERICA (Bob Levin), 8 Ardsley Cir, Brockton, MA 02402
RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO (Vicki Blake), Box 1908, Englewood, CO 80150; \$20 a year (Return with Us Now)
SOCIETY TO PRESERVE AND ENCOURAGE RADIO DRAMA, VARIETY & COMEDY (SPERDVAC), Box 1587, Hollywood, CA 90078; \$25 a year (SPERDVAC Radiogram)
VIC AND SADE SOCIETY (Barbara Schwarz), 7232 N. Keystone Ave, Lincolnwood, IL 60646